

Diseases of the Skin and the Eruptive Fevers. By Jay F. Schamberg, M. D. Publishers, W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia. 1908.

This small book briefly and accurately outlines the modern conception of dermatology and rather fully describes the cutaneous symptoms of the exanthemata, the latter feature being of special importance and value. In the words of the author:

"Dermatology in its broad and true sense embraces a consideration of all morbid processes that are characterized by cutaneous manifestations." In his usual dignified, scholarly style Schamberg presents a work that is pleasing to read as well as instructive. His wide experience enables him to write authoritatively upon the subject. The book is well indexed, and the text well arranged. It is disappointing, however, to find in the chapter on syphilis, no mention of the Wassermann serum-reaction test or its modifications, the value of which procedure is now generally recognized.

The consideration of the various cutaneous diseases is presented in a concise manner and the illustrations (black and white) are exceptionally good. For the section pertaining to the exanthemata, the author has drawn freely from his work on "Acute Contagious Diseases," (written in collaboration with Welch).

In addition to the usual exanthemata he has described the accidental eruptions that occur in certain other diseases (typhoid, typhus, epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, influenza, malaria, rheumatic fever, dengue, miliary fever, angina and tonsillitis).

To one desiring a small reference book, concise and instructive, this volume can be well recommended. H. E. A.

Practical Points in the Use of X-Ray and High-Frequency Currents. By Aspinwall Judd, M. D. Publishers, Rebman Co., New York.

This small book of 185 pages contains a preface which states that the book is intended expressly for the general practitioner who finds himself hopelessly at sea in beginning this kind of work. It would then be manifestly unfair to criticize it from the standpoint of the service it might render one already cognizant of the subjects of which it deals.

It contains nothing which would be of much service in aiding the general practitioner to choose the outfit which he should buy. If he already has an apparatus and should have no knowledge concerning it, he could get some elementary points concerning its use from this book. Having acquired this knowledge he must, as indeed the book advises him, turn to a larger more scientific publication for further instruction. On the other hand, the chapters on treatment contain paragraphs which epitomize well, and in a sane yet enthusiastic manner the conditions which, by X-Ray and high frequency treatments have been of therapeutic service. The author wisely states that these agents are of no curative value in cases of superficial epitheliomata with secondary glandular enlargement or in cases of carcinomata.

On the other hand attention is drawn to the marked therapeutic effect which these agents have upon sarcomata and the theory advanced that it is owing to a stimulation of the young cells which in case of carcinoma only leads to an increased epithelial formation, whereas in sarcoma, an older type of tissue—fibrous tissue—is produced, is very interesting.

Thus the book would be of some service to the beginner and the reading of it would probably stimulate the general practitioner into taking a more decided interest in these subjects.

G. L. PAINTER.

Treatment of the Diseases of Children. By Charles Gilmore Kerley, M. D. Publishers, D. Appleton Co., New York. 1909.

This is a most exasperating book; on each page there is information that is invaluable, but with this there is usually some statement which is controversial or is in direct contradiction to the teachings of most pediatricists. The great virtue of the work is that it is eminently practical. The minutiae of many therapeutic procedures are given in such detail that no one will have excuse for omitting to use them.

One of its most admirable divisions is that given over to gymnastic therapeutics; a subject which is too infrequently given due recognition. Kerley very properly recommends gymnastics for flattened or narrow conditions of the thorax, curvatures of the spine, flatfoot, congenital ataxia, anterior poliomyelitis, habitual constipation, and malnutrition. If only for this section, no practitioner who deals extensively with children can afford to be without the book.

In judging a work on the treatment of children one naturally turns to the chapter on the management of diphtheria, and it is very satisfying to find the author writing that "After a large experience in the use of antitoxin I am convinced that it is often given in too small initial doses, even by men who are familiar with its use." Even with this warning in mind the dose recommended by the author for laryngeal diphtheria is not sufficient. According to him, seven thousand to ten thousand units should be given at the first injection and repeated the following day, in cases which require intubation. It has been very clearly shown in the contagious wards of the San Francisco County Hospital that twelve to fifteen thousand units promptly given to laryngeal cases, and the dose repeated in twenty-four hours will in most instances prevent the necessity for intubation. The minimum initial dose of antitoxin should be five thousand units, from that up to fifteen thousand should be given in the beginning; and the size of the dose should be proportioned by the amount of toxæmia present. The weakness of the author's chapter on diphtheria, is in that it does not give a sufficiently clear picture of those varying degrees of toxæmia which should guide the physician in giving antitoxin. Considering how alarming a complication is heart failure supervening during diphtheria, one is disappointed to find no reference to the complication other than "When the heart action is irregular and intermittent and cyanosis develops, there is need of heart stimulants such as alcohol, strychnin, digitalis and strophanthus." One of the most important dicta laid down by the author, in reference to laryngeal diphtheria, is that "intubation should not be postponed until the child has become exhausted in its struggle for air." "Diphtheria is a disease in which every possible strength unit must be preserved."

The advice given about the treatment of scarlet fever is excellent. One would demur from the statement that "the value of the serum treatment has been by no means demonstrated." It is true that present conditions do not warrant us to advise the use of specific serum in every case of scarlet fever, but there is no possible doubt that the serious and severe symptoms of phlegmonous tonsillitis with extensive adenitis will be more promptly and thoroughly controlled with than without sufficient doses of antistreptococcus serum promptly given. One notices with some astonishment the absence of any reference to the use of the mustard pack which